

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:
an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex, comprising: a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) linked to the surface of a nonbiodegradable microcarrier (MC), wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G-3', and wherein said microcarrier is less than about 10 μm in size, with the proviso that if the MC is gold, latex or magnetic, the linkage is other than by biotin/avidin, wherein the complex is antigen free; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is non-covalently linked to said microcarrier.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said microcarrier is from 10 nm to 10 μm in size.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6, wherein said microcarrier is from 25 nm to 5 μm in size.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method of modulating an immune response in an individual comprising administering to an individual an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex in an amount sufficient to modulate an immune response in said individual, wherein said MC is a nonbiodegradable MC and wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G-3'.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the IMP/MC complex is covalently linked.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the IMP/MC complex is non-covalently linked.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein said microcarrier is less than about 10 μm in size.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein a Th1-type immune response is stimulated.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein a Th2-type immune response is suppressed.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 12, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A method of increasing interferon-gamma (IFN- γ) in an individual, comprising:

administering an effective amount of an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/ microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex to said individual, wherein said MC is a nonbiodegradable MC, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G-3' and wherein an effective amount is an amount sufficient to increase IFN- γ in said individual.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein said individual has idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein the IMP/MC complex is covalently linked.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein the IMP/MC complex is non-covalently linked.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein said microcarrier is less than about 10 μm in size.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A method of increasing interferon-alpha (IFN- α) in an individual, comprising:

administering an effective amount of an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/ microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex to said individual, wherein said MC is a nonbiodegradable MC, wherein the

ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G-3' and wherein an effective amount is an amount sufficient to increase IFN- α in said individual.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein said individual has a viral infection.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the IMP/MC complex is covalently linked.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the IMP/MC complex is non-covalently linked.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein said microcarrier is less than about 10 μm in size.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The method of claim 35, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): A method of reducing levels of IgE in an individual, comprising: administering an effective amount of an immunomodulatory polynucleotide/ microcarrier (IMP/MC) complex to an individual, wherein said MC is a nonbiodegradable MC, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G-3' and wherein an effective amount is an amount sufficient to reduce levels of IgE in said individual.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein said microcarrier is a solid phase microcarrier.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein said microcarrier is a liquid phase microcarrier.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein the IMP/MC complex is covalently linked.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein the IMP/MC complex is non-covalently linked.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein said microcarrier is less than about 10 μm in size.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein said complex is antigen-free.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-T, C, G-3'.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): The method of claim 46, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 56-66 (cancelled)

Claim 67 (new): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

Claim 68 (new): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 67 wherein said phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

Claim 69 (new): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide is less than about 200 nucleotides in length